



THE

Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter

291 Dow Science * Central Michigan University * Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859 * 989-774-3723

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COORDINATOR'S

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Dr. Michael Libbee

Become a Teacher Consultant for MGA

The Michigan Geographic Alliance will be offering a Basic Summer Geography Institute at Central Michigan University July 6 through July 17, 2009.

Graduates of Basic Summer Alliance Institutes become Teacher Consultants and are supported by MGA to provide professional development workshops for Michigan teachers. There is **no charge** for this residential institute, and **most expenses are covered** (housing, most meals). A small **honorarium** is available for completing the two-week institute.

The institute is appropriate for teachers at all levels of instruction (K-12) and is open to anyone having a minimum of 3 years of classroom teaching and an interest in improving geography education. The institute includes experiences in field study, physical and cultural geography, and curriculum integration, and provides teachers with a wide range of **instructional material** to use in their classrooms.

Participants develop and present a geographic lesson supporting the Michigan content expectations during the institute. Secondary teachers will focus on integrating geography and history; elementary teachers will concentrate on teaching the geography GLCEs, especially in conjunction with other areas of the curriculum.

The application form can be found on page 5. For more information, contact Marty Mater (mater1ml@cmich.edu) or call the Alliance office (1-800-279-1423).

MGA Basic Summer Geography Institute

Top Ten Reasons to come!

10. Experience a free, two-week vacation from family/home/chores/etc in air-conditioned comfort.
9. Explore the geography and culture of mid-Michigan and Central Michigan University
8. Engage your mind in a stimulating learning experience with some of Michigan's best instructors
7. Take a step toward becoming an educational leader in Michigan
6. Become a member of a network of Teacher Consultants
5. Re-experience all the anxiety, thrill, and satisfaction of being a learner
4. Fill your vehicle with free resources for teaching geography
3. Learn amazing new ideas and practice exciting new instructional approaches
2. Have some fun exploring with a group of like-minded educators

And the number one reason to come to the institute:

"You get to talk geography all day with people who understand what you are saying!"

Summer Opportunities...



The Michigan Geographic Alliance and Michigan Council for History Education, will offer 2 one-week institutes to help social studies teachers in grades 6-12 implement the new content expectations for geography and history.

The two institutes, offered at Kent ISD and Ingham ISD, will provide activities and perspectives which are both historical and geographic.

Each day will offer content presentations and instructional activities presented by experienced teachers and academics. Teachers will receive resources, including maps, timelines, reference materials, CDs, etc.

The institutes are free to Grand Rapids and Lansing Public School teachers; other teachers may register (\$100) until spaces are filled. Two hours of graduate credit will be available through Central Michigan University for an additional fee, or teachers can earn SBCEUs through the local districts. The institutes are funded with support from the Michigan Department of Education through an Improving Teacher Quality grant.

Workshop objectives include:

- Developing instructional activities consistent with the Michigan GLCEs
- Describing similarities and differences between a geographic and a historical perspective
- Making use of maps to explain historical patterns or events
- Using geographic concepts and generalizations to interpret and explain trends over time and connections through space
- Putting important historical events in geographic and environmental context

LANSING

June 15-19, 2009

Ingham ISD

Thorburn Education Center Mason, MI

Register online at www.inghamisd.org

click on Professional Development

GRAND RAPIDS

June 22-26, 2009

Kent ISD

Register online at www.kentisd.org

click on professional development

***** World History Eras *****

According to the guidelines of the Michigan Department of Education, the history of the world can be divided into 8 major eras:

Era 1	Beginning to 4000 BCE	The beginning of human society
Era 2	4000 BCE to 1000 BCE	Early civilizations and cultures
Era 3	1000 BCE to 300 CE	Classical traditions and major empires
Era 4	300 CE to 1500 CE	Expanding hemispheric interactions
Era 5	15th to 18th centuries	First global age
Era 6	1776 CE to 1914 CE	Age of global revolutions
Era 7	1900 CE to 1945 CE	Global crisis and achievement
Era 8	1945 to Present	Cold war and its aftermath

Can you place these inventions in the correct era? Extra points for pinpointing the region or country where first used!

1. Ballpoint Pen
2. Harpoon
3. Thimble
4. Barbed Wire
5. Velcro
6. Button
7. Ice Cream
8. Tuning Fork

Free National Geographic Maps, Materials, and Activities

National Geographic Maps contain abundant information, but can be daunting to teachers and students. Lesson ideas developed by Michigan Geographic Alliance can help teachers simplify NGS maps for use in the school classroom.

Lessons are designed to be used in groups of students, so maps are offered in sets of five. Also available is our Geography Action Packet (see description below)

For **each** classroom set of 5 maps (with lesson activities) or a GA packet, send this form and a 9 x 13 self-addressed envelope with \$3.00 worth of postage attached to Michigan Geographic Alliance, 291 Dow Science, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

School: _____

School District: _____

Grade Level/Subject: _____ Contact Phone or e-mail: _____

Shipping address (Must also be on envelope)

***Remember: Send a
self-addressed envelope
with \$3.00 postage for
EACH SET!***

Circle the materials you are ordering **{LIMIT 2 PER TEACHER}**

- Africa: The Human Footprint**
- Europe in Transition**
- From Sea to Shining Sea**
- Soccer Unites the World**
- The Dividing Link (Mexico and Central America)**
- Climate Change**
- Geography Action Packet**

Geography Action Packet

- Mapping The Americas Toolkit
- Australia Hands on Explorer
- South America Hands on Explorer
- Africa Hands on Explorer
- Asia Poster

Answers to World History Eras (from page 2)

Era 1	2. Harpoon	9000 BC	Polar	Made of stone and fired through wooden tubes
Era 2	6. Button	3000 BC	Indus Valley	re-invented in Germany, 1235
Era 3	7. Ice Cream	400 BC	Persia	
Era 4	3. Thimble	1000	Byzantium in Corinth	(modern Greece)
Era 5	8. Tuning Fork	1711	England	by John Shore
Era 6	4. Barbed Wire	1873	USA	by Joseph Glidden
Era 7	1. Ballpoint Pen	1938	Hungary	by Laszlo Biró - also called a biro (UK)
Era 8	5. Velcro	1948	Switzerland	by George deMestral

Michigan Geographic Alliance Basic Summer Geography Institute

Application Form

I am applying for the Michigan Geographic Alliance Basic Summer Geography Institute to be held Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 17, 2009 at Central Michigan University. (No weekend sessions)

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____ City _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

School Name: _____ District _____

School Address: _____ City _____ State: ____ Zip _____

School Phone: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Number of Years taught: _____ Grades & classes that you teach: _____

Special Skills that you bring to the Institute: _____

College and post-graduate credit hours that you have taken in geography: _____

In addition to your application form, please submit the following:

1. An up-do-date resume.
2. A letter of recommendation from your principal. The letter should state your school's encouragement for you to facilitate presentations at two staff-development workshops during 2009-2010.
3. A brief description of the role geography plays in your classroom.

Send these materials to: Michigan Geographic Alliance, Central Michigan University, 291 Dow Science Building, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859. Please submit your application by April 15, 2009. The institute will be limited to 27 participants. Initial selection of candidates will be made, and confirmation letters sent out to participants by May 1, 2009. If you have any questions call our office at (800) 279-1423 or email Marty Mater at mater1ml@cmich.edu.

Optional: Three hours of graduate credit in Geography available (at your own expense).

I am _____ am not _____ interested in academic credit.

TC TIDBITS...

Iris Katers, MGA Teacher Consultant has joined three other retired teachers to start the nonprofit project called "Grandparents Teach, Too." Working with the Northern Michigan University Center for Economics Education and Entrepreneurship, the School of Education, and the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum, her project includes a weekly interactive syndicated newspaper column in 40 papers by summer, books (first one in May), videos on the web (YouTube), and a web site to help grandparents, parents and other caregivers prepare preschool children for school.

The project uses national standards to teach the grandparents and others who care for children to use materials easily found in the home and community. Besides the usual pre-reading and math skills, the articles teach geography, economics, history, and community service to preschool children and their families. She will also be working with agencies and hospitals to help new families get a good start.

"After being a teacher for 38 years and a Michigan Geographic Alliance TC for more than 10, I can't simply sit around when there is so much to do. Every teacher recognizes children who have been read to and have a rich vocabulary at home. We are firmly convinced if grandparents can do some very simple activities during visits or regular child care, we can make a difference in children's lives because they are better prepared for school."

One example for dreary days is placing shoes and towels under a rug to make geographic features, adding some blue paper for water features, little boxes for structures, and playing with Matchbox cars on the floor. This article teaches storytelling using geographic vocabulary, follow up activities, and library books.

Teacher Consultants are welcome to send articles of about 400 words. If published, she will include a byline. You may include children's first names and ages. Contact her at snyderup@aol.com.

From the Michigan Department of Education:

Social Studies Alignment Project

The Social Studies Alignment Project provides information about the scope and meaning of the social studies content expectations and indicates how they will be assessed at each grade level. The resource identifies each content expectation with either a C: assessed at classroom and district levels or an S: assessed at classroom, district, and state levels and may be assessed on the MEAP or the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). Additionally, this resource provides information about the scope of the standard as defined by the content expectations at each grade level. It also provides a focus question and accompanying short narrative that further define the scope of each content expectation.

Teachers and content experts developed the Social Studies Alignment documents. They were aided by input from committees organized by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability. Additional information regarding state assessment of the content expectations (MEAP and MME) will be available in Fall 2009.

For more information and resources, log on to <http://www.michigan.gov/mde> and choose curriculum and instruction, then curriculum subjects, then social studies.

National Geographic Bee

State Finals held at Western Michigan University

The state finals of the National Geographic Bee will be held on April 3, 2009 at Western Michigan University, under the direction of Dr. Lisa De Chano. One hundred students (4th through 8th grades) will compete to become the state champion and travel to Washington, DC for the national competition.

Qualifying rounds of the state finals begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Bernhard Center at WMU, and the final round will start about 2:30.

Any public, private or home school in Michigan can take part in the event, by registering with the National Geographic Society in the fall and holding a school geography bee in January. Each school winner is given a written test corrected by NGS, and the top 100 scorers in each state are invited to state finals. The winner of the Michigan Geographic Bee is awarded \$100 and a trip to Washington DC with a teacher escort. Since the beginning of the competition in 1989, Michigan students have won the National Geographic Bee 4 times and placed 3rd once.

“Crossroads of Cultures”

National Conference on Geography Education

San Juan, Puerto Rico

September 23-27, 2009

Join Geography educators from around the country to learn about the latest content, pedagogy and research in geography education. For more information about this event, log on to www.ncge.org and click on conference

NCGE’s Call to Present*:

This year’s national conference (San Juan, Puerto Rico) will feature seven thematic strands. Proposals for presentations on these and other topics should be submitted by April 13, 2009.

Visit the “Events” section at www.ncge.org to submit a proposal online or to print the form.

Thematic Strands: *South and Middle America and the Caribbean* *Climate Change*
Ecotourism/Sustainable Development *Geospatial Technology* *Puerto Rico*
Geography Education Research *Advanced Placement Human Geography*

****Active Teacher Consultants can request up to \$500 of travel support if they are presenting a workshop.***